

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

As in the west, many parts of the eastern Caribbean (particularly the north) are likely to experience some measure of drought relief during the three month period from April to June, which is expected to have above normal rainfall, particular in the latter half of this three month period. There should, however, be some measure of caution for full relief from the longer term drought impacts, with recharge of underground aquifers and replenishment of large surface reservoirs and rivers taking a bit longer, particularly since the early part of the rainy season (Jul-Sept) may not yield as much rainfall as normal.

Month at a Glance

Rainfall was mixed in the eastern Caribbean islands for the month. Trinidad was moderately dry; Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Kitts normal; Grenada slightly dry; St. Lucia, Anguilla and St. Maarten slightly wet; Dominica very wet; and St. Croix moderately wet. Conditions in Guyana ranged from normal in the north to severely dry in southern areas. Aruba and Curacao were normal, and Puerto Rico was predominantly so. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

Antigua remains in drought, which has been ongoing for 33 months. ([Antigua CliSec](#))

Drought relief could soon be on the way. ([Nation News](#))

Significantly lowered concerns for impactful dryness in Trinidad and Tobago by End of June 2016. ([Trinidad & Tobago Met Service](#))

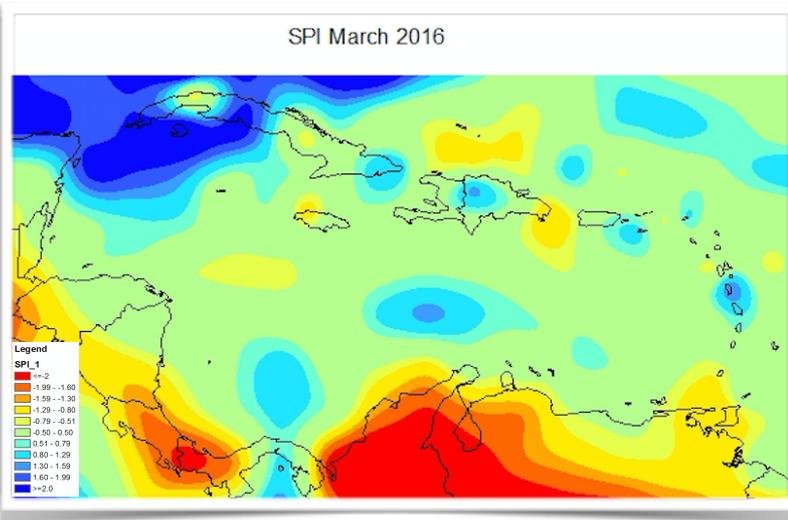
Rising hunger in Haiti as El Niño follows prolonged drought. ([UN News Centre](#))

Drought Conditions In Guyana To Continue Until End Of May. ([Pride News](#))

Latest News

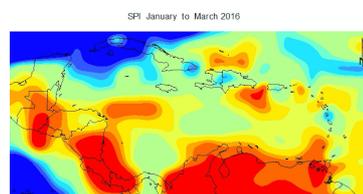
OECS hosted a drought management workshop in Saint Kitts on March 1st-4th, 2016. ([ZIZ Online](#))

Wet/Hurricane Season CariCOF assembly to held in Dominica from May 30th-31st, 2016.

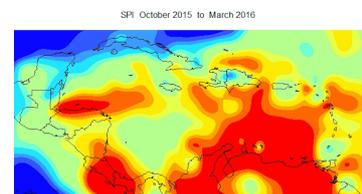


January-February-March Rainfall Summary

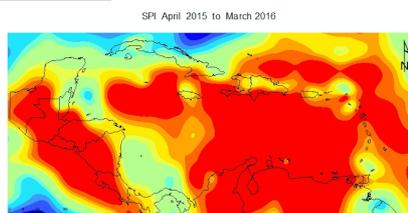
For the three month period, normal to below normal rainfall was experienced in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad was severe to extremely dry; Tobago, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Anguilla and St. Maarten normal; Grenada extremely dry; Barbados and St. Croix slightly dry; St. Vincent and Antigua moderately dry; Dominica moderately wet; and Guyana from normal in the north to extremely dry further south. Aruba and Curacao were severely dry. Though some southern parts of Puerto Rico were slightly wet, rainfall on the island was predominantly normal. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from very wet in western areas to normal in the south, east and north. Jamaica and Grand Cayman were normal. Western Cuba ranged from slight to exceptionally wet, while the east was from normal to very wet. Conditions in Belize ranged from extremely dry in the south to normal in the north.



JANUARY - MARCH 2016
SPI 3 MONTHS



OCT 2015 - MAR 2016
SPI 6 MONTHS



APRIL 2015- MARCH 2016
SPI 12 MONTHS

The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation and Monitoring Network (CDPMN)

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative (CARIWIN). The goal of CARIWIN was to increase the capacity of Caribbean countries to deliver equitable and sustainable Integrated Water resources Management (IWRM).

The concept was born out of the need to mitigate and respond to the creeping phenomenon, drought. Drought and the general precipitation status is monitored at the regional scale. Efforts are being made to enhance drought monitoring at the national level.

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

The CariCOF brings together climate experts and meteorological services in the Caribbean region on an operational basis to produce a monthly climate outlook. CariCOF interacts with sectoral users to assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent socio-economic sectors. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), in its role as WMO Regional Climate Centre in demonstration phase, coordinates the CariCOF process. [Read more...](#)

For more information contact:

Mr. Adrian Trotman:
atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

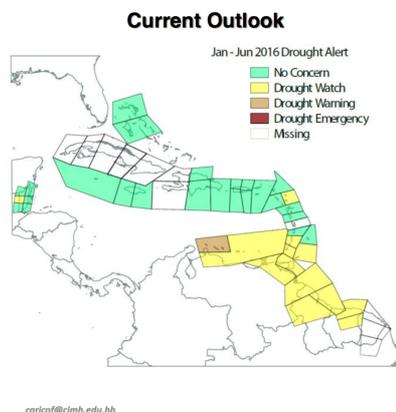
Mr. Anthony Moore:
amoore@cimh.edu.bb

Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
scox@cimh.edu.bb

Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

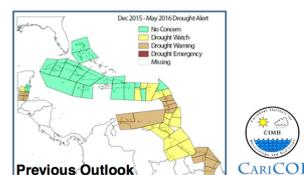
Drought Outlook for the End of June CariCOF's Drought Alert Map

Drought Outlook January to June Areas under immediate drought concern?

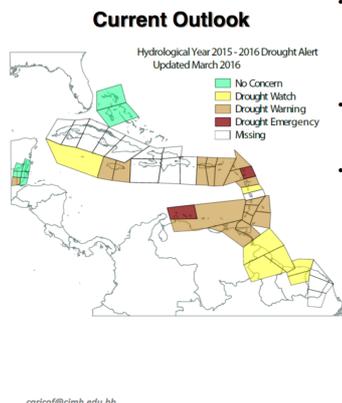


Current update (March 2016):

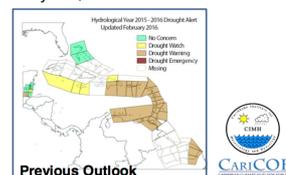
Drought concern is noted in Antigua, west-central Belize and from Saint Vincent southward. A **drought warning** is issued for ABC Islands.



Long-term drought outlook Concerns by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 31st, 2016)?



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until February 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -0.8 (*moderately dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the dry season (May 31st) is a concern across the Antilles (no data available for Cuba, Hispaniola, Martinique), SW Belize and the Guianas.
- A **drought emergency** is issued for the ABC Islands and Antigua. A **drought warning** is issued for the remainder of the Antilles except Dominica, as well as SW Belize. A **drought watch** is also issued for Cayman, Dominica and the Guianas.



Current Drought Situation

- Because of below-normal rainfall during 2015, water shortages occur in many portions of the Antilles, notably Barbados, Haïti, St. Lucia and many of the Leewards.
- Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas; no data for Cuba and Hispaniola).
- However, a failure of the secondary wet season in the Guianas has led to short-term drought.
 - **Shorter-term (till June 2016):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist from the ABC islands eastward to Saint Vincent and southward into the western.
 - **Longer-term (beyond May 2016):**
 - El Niño has peaked in strength last November and is slowly weakening.
 - The El Niño results in a drier early part of the year in the Lesser Antilles and a failure of the secondary wet season in the northern Guianas. This leads to drought concerns towards the end of the Caribbean dry season (i.e. May 31).
 - In the islands, the wet season may start up to one month earlier than usual, when longer-term drought recovery is expected for Barbados, Cayman, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US Caribbean Terr. and Windwards.
 - El Niño will possibly be replaced by a La Niña by the end of the year. This evolution should finally bring drought relief to the region, but may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood potential. **[Available for download]**